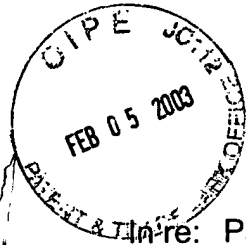


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Patent 2-12-03

ATTORNEY DOCKET: 40426.04501  
PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of:  
Stephen B. Maguire

Serial No.: 09/883,837

Filed: June 18, 2001

For: LOW PRESSURE DRYER

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Group Art Unit: 1732  
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Examiner: TBA  
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Certificate of Mailing Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EL 926902191US

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed and/or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail - Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10, on the date indicated below, and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Feb 5 / 2003      *Sherry Barag*  
Date of Deposit      Signature

Sherry Barag  
Type or print name of person

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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**FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Submission of this statement is not to be construed as an admission that any of the documents submitted herewith are "material" to the examination of this application or the patentability of the invention, as the term "material" is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Specifically, submitted herewith are a photocopy of the International Search Report for Patent Cooperation Treaty application PCT/US02/19294 which is closely related to the instant application and which claims priority from the instant application, and a photocopy of the International Search Report for Patent Cooperation Treaty application PCT/US98/19464, which is directed to the Applicant's basic low pressure dryer for which the instant application represents a number of important improvements.

In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits of the above-identified application, no fee is required.

Copies of each of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

All of the patents listed on the two enclosed International Search Reports have already been submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in one or more of the prior information disclosure statements submitted for this application.

Applicant further notes that one of only two documents listed on either of the two search reports submitted herewith, which is characterized as an "X" or a "Y" reference and therefore is viewed by the International Search Authority as having some relevance to the patentability of this invention, is applicant's prior U.S. patent which issued from the U.S. application which was a counterpart of PCT/US98/19464, noted above.

The other document which is characterized as an "X" or a "Y" reference is a grain storage facility having *no* capability for **below ambient pressure drying** of granular or powdery material, which is a key aspect of the apparatus and method aspects of the invention as claimed in the instant application.

We respectfully solicit a prompt, thorough and favorable examination of the instant application.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1943. This form is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5 February 2003



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**Form PTO-1449 Modified**Client Matter No.  
40526.04501Serial No.  
09/883,837List of Patent and Publications Cited by Applicant  
(Use several sheets if necessary)Applicant  
Stephen B. MaguireU.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark OfficeFiling Date  
June 18, 2001Group  
1732**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass

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TC 1700**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Date	Country	Translation YES NO

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

AA	International search report for PCT/US98/19464 (WO 99/15324)
AB	International search report for PCT/US02/19294

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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